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STATINTL

Able and Experienced

President Kennedy made good appointments this week to head two key cold war agencies. He named William Chapman Foster to be director of the new United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, with the rank of an undersecretary of state. To succeed Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, the president named John A. McCone.

As it happens, both men are Republicans. Both have held high office under presidents of both parties. Both have wide executive experience also in industry.

McCone was chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission during President Eisenhower's last three years in office and had been an undersecretary of the Air Force for a year under President Truman.

Foster headed the U. S. delegation to the conference with the Soviet Union seeking safeguards against surprise attacks in 1958. During the Truman administration he was successively undersecretary of commerce, a foreign aid official (finally the top one), and deputy secretary of defense.

The C. I. A. will continue to gather information all over the world, mostly by routine diligence from open sources but also by spying. It will continue to carry out various secret under-cover operations. But it is not to have charge any longer of any such major military operations as last spring's disastrous invasion of Cuba.

The arms control agency is to be primarily a research body, with responsibilities also in connection with disarmament negotiations and (if agreements are made) arms control. It reports to the president and the secretary of state, but it is not just a bureau of the State Department—it is a semi-independent agency.

The security of the United States requires that these two agencies should be headed by men of judgment, ability and energy.